February 24, 2004

Mr. Mark Kyle
Undersecretary of State
State of California
Executive Office
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Los Angeles County "Export" software

Dear Mr. Kyle:

On behalf of Diebold Election Systems, Inc. (DESI), this is a request for review and if necessary, conditional certification of a specific software for use in Los Angeles exclusively for the March 2nd primary. We apologize for requesting this review at this late date, but we want to ensure that we are in total compliance with all software that will be used in the upcoming election.

Background
Los Angeles County's proprietary Inka-Vote voting system doesn't allow for direct import of data from other voting systems.

The county utilizes Diebold Election Systems AccuVote-TS (firmware version 4.3.15) units with GEMS (firmware version 1.18.18) for their early voting. In the first 4 days, there have been as estimated 1,000 votes cast with an estimated possibility of 7,000 – 12,000 total votes cast during their early voting period prior to the March 2nd primary.

Because of the need to have the early vote tallies integrated with the Inka-Vote system, Diebold Election Systems was asked in late January to provide a software solution that would take the early voting results cast on the AccuVote-TS and input them into the Inka-Vote system. The development of the "export" software has been completed and tested with the Inka-Vote system.

How it works
The process involved with the middleware software is straightforward. After the completion of early voting, GEMS produces one file that contains the election records. This "export" software then extracts the records into a flat text file that is recognizable and can be imported into Inka-Vote.

For Los Angeles County, this "export extract" software is utilized twice. At no time does this software tally votes – it just extracts the files into fields that can be imported into a proprietary voting system.

Backup
If the middleware software isn't used, the backup plan would be to electronically print each vote image to paper after the election. Then, a representative from Los Angeles County would create an Inka-Vote ballot to correspond with the previously cast ballot and run it through the Inka-Vote system. The numbers of electronic ballots would correspond to the recreated Inka-Vote ballots.

To assist your review, we have attached a file that documents the screens of the software and the actual export program. If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Urosevich
President

CC: John Mott-Smith, Chief, Elections
        Dawn Melhaff, Deputy Chief, Elections

Attachments